

THE ADVOCATE AND NEWS

Devoted to the Best Interests of the Home, the Shop and the Farm

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OFFICIAL STATE
PAPER, 51 YEARS.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, MARCH 16, 1898.



EVERY WEDNESDAY.
PRICE FIVE CENTS.

They Robbed the Poor.

Penitentiary Doctor in 1896 Buncoed
an Old Man Out of \$100, Play-
ing On the Death of a Son.

AN EXAMPLE OF MANY STEALS.

Some time ago Chaplain H. E. Ballou of the Kansas penitentiary received a letter from Wm. H. Shepherd, of Berry Station, Ala., inquiring about the whereabouts of Dr. G. A. Morrison, the prison physician during the Morrill administration, and stating that the Doctor had secured \$100 from him to assist in securing a pardon for his son, Claude William Shepherd, who was a convict, and who died in prison May 26, 1897. Attention was called to the fact that no pardon had ever been secured and that the money had not been returned notwithstanding promises which were made that not one cent of it should be used unless the pardon was secured. Mr. Shepherd also stated that he had been compelled to borrow the money, and that being poor it was a great sacrifice, but that he had wanted his boy, who was dying of consumption, to have a mother's care in his last days. Mr. Shepherd made an effort to secure the return of the money after his son's death but with the exception of the receipt of one letter containing a fine assortment of promises, his efforts had resulted in failure. As evidence that he had sent the money he forwarded to Chaplain Ballou in a letter dated February 7, 1898, two original letters from Dr. Morrison, acknowledging receipt and promising its return and two receipts from the Southern Express Company showing the issue of two money orders November 24, 1896, in Dr. Morrison's favor, the orders being numbered B590903 and B590904.

The story of this transaction, which is not by any means the only one of the kind, is best told by the correspondence which passed between the two parties. It started with a letter from Claude Shepherd (who was also known at his home as "Willie") to his father, in which he told of his condition and asked for money to push a pardon application. With this letter Dr. Morrison enclosed a slip on which the following appeared:

Kansas State Penitentiary Pharmacy,
Surgeon's Office.

Mr. Shepherd:—I simply wish to add to Claude's letter that should you see fit to help him, and I think it's your duty now, I will stand between him and loss of the money. That is, if the release cannot be obtained no money goes and will be returned to you. Yours,

G. A. MORRISON.

The elder Shepherd wrote back asking some questions with a view to ascertaining more about the reliability of Dr. Morrison, to which he received the following reply:

Office of Geo. A. Morrison,
Prison Physician, K. S. P.,
Lansing, Kans., Nov. 17th, 1896.

Wm. H. Shepherd, Berry Station, Ala.:
My Dear Sir—Yours of 15th at hand. Replying let me say in order to set myself right that I do not want a dollar of Claude's money for myself. Please understand that now. God knows I would cheerfully render him any service I could. He cannot live long in my judg-

ment, and I have taken especial care of him for the last eight months. The change of administration necessarily means a change of physicians, and while that might be for his good, the risk is to run. I want to see him liberated from here before I go away. Now I have but this to say—send me all the money you can raise as early as possible. I will use it for his interest if I can. Our board of pardons will be in session here next week. If I cannot effect his release I give you here and now my word of honor as between man and man, every dollar you send me shall be returned to you. Do you understand? No man shall handle a dollar of it until his pardon is signed up by the governor, and if I can secure his pardon without using the money it will be refunded. Now, I think, Mr. Shepherd, I have stated my position plainly and we understand each other, and it remains for you to exercise your own best judgment. As to further trouble, I think you need have no fear, as the condition of his health would cheat the pen of a victim.

Let me hear from you, and the correspondence concerning money had best be kept to yourself. I may not have to use any of it. Claude is in bed most of the time now. Yours,

G. A. MORRISON.

If you send money send draft payable to me individually. M.

Just a week from the date of this letter Mr. Shepherd sent the money as above stated. Then the correspondence lapsed. So far as evidence of effort to secure a pardon for Claude is concerned, the record is also a blank, so far as can now be learned. On May 26, 1897, Claude Shepherd died. When his father received notice of his death, he wrote Dr. Morrison, asking for an accounting for the money sent him. To this letter he got the following reply:

Lansing, Kans., June 2d, 1897.

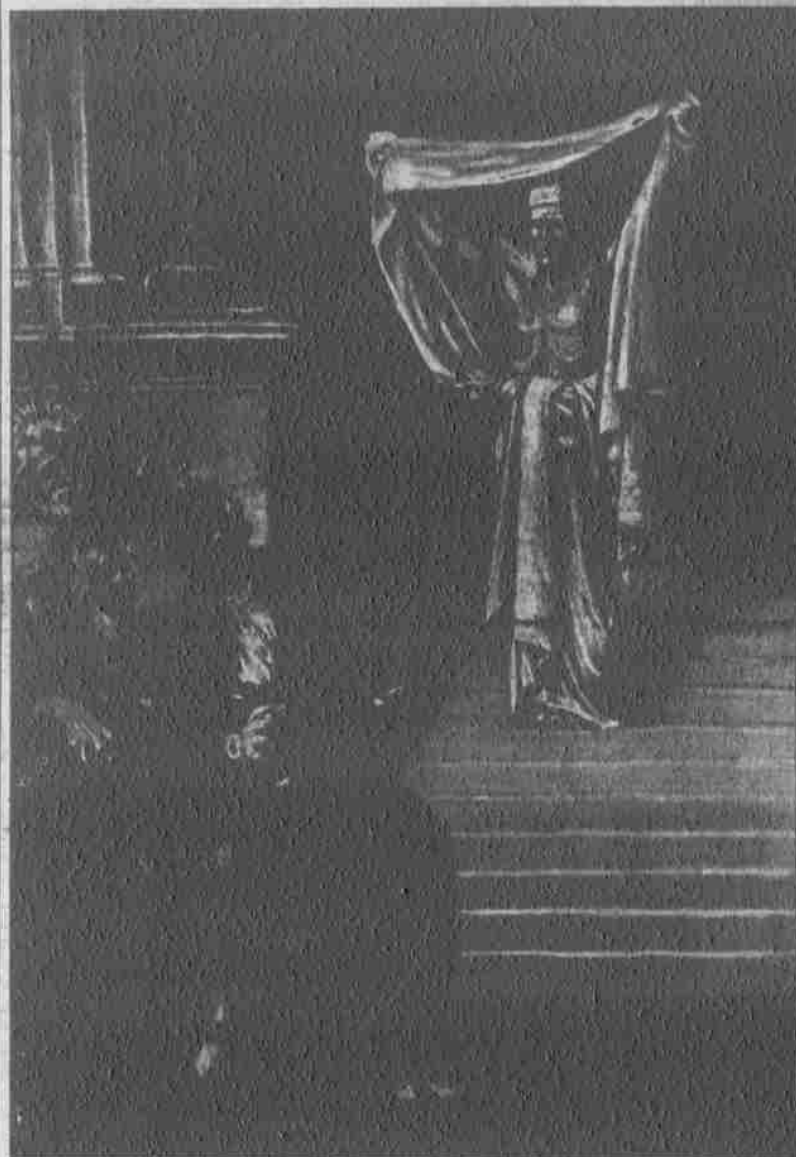
W. H. Shepherd, Berry Station, Ala.:

My Dear Sir:—Your letter of recent date asking remittance at hand. Replying thereto I desire to say I have never for a moment expected or intended to do other than I promised, and my actions have always been based upon sincerity. I worked hard and faithfully to accomplish a pardon for your son. Spent time and money in the endeavor, and I give you my word, based on the honor of a man who prizes his word, that everything shall be as represented to you, and you shall have the money advanced. But now an explanation is in order. I am utterly unable at this time to send it. I haven't any money on hand. Have means which will soon be available and can utilize it in a short time. I went to the prison financially broken by a real estate deal and have paid out, but in doing so it threw me out of employment penniless. I promise you that if you will be patient a little time you shall have your money. I have no disposition to be other than fair with you, and could not afford to. In order that you may feel that I am disposed to do the fair thing and not take an undue advantage of you in any way, but on the other hand acknowledge the matter as a just and honest debt, I will put it in the shape of a note if you want, and will take it up just as quickly as I can, which may be in three or four weeks. I have been away from home else your letter would have received a more prompt answer.

Trusting then that you will not allow yourself to worry in the least, and that I will be able to satisfy the claim in even less time than indicated above, I am,

Truly yours,

GEO. A. MORRISON.



Labor Appearing Before the President and Congress.

Our cartoon is adapted from the famous painting of "Sebastian Appearing to the Emperor Maximian Hercules," by Boulanger.

"Sebastian" was a commander of the Pretorian Guards, a great favorite of Diocletian and of Diocletian's colleague in the Empire, Maximianus. Condemned to death for protecting the Christians, Sebastian was restored by faithful Christian women after the soldiers had left him for dead. When he recovered he was counselled by his fellow religious to fly, but he refused and gave his life; but Sebastian went to the Palace and stood where the Emperor would surely see him. The Emperor being amazed, exclaimed, "Art thou not Sebastian?" He replied, "I am Sebastian, whom God hath delivered from the hands of his enemies." For this bold action the martyr was commanded to be beaten with clubs in the Circus, and his body obscurely thrown into the Cloaca Maxima, where his friends could not find it. There are numerous instances in this "Land of Liberty" where men of Sebastian's character have been treated just as cruelly for attempting to protect those who toll from the barbarous treatment of corporate greed and wealth. Labor now stands before the President and Congress exhibiting scores of horrible wounds, all of which represent wrongs of the gravest character, asking in a silent but forcible manner for their reparation, and it now remains to be seen whether these wrongs will be righted or whether the punishment of Sebastian will be inflicted.

MYRON A. WATERMAN.

Mr. Shepherd immediately replied, sending a note properly filled out, but he never received it, and was not even favored with a reply to his letter. Tired of waiting and ready to do anything to secure the money which it cost great sacrifice to secure, he wrote to Chaplain Ballou the following letter relative to the affair:

Berry Station, Ala., Feb. 7, 1898.

Mr. H. E. Ballou, Lansing, Kas.:

Dear Sir—Your very kind letter came to hand a few days ago, and the contents

were duly noted. I was proud to know that there was a chance to get or recover the money I sent Dr. Geo. A. Morrison some time in 1896. You write me if I will send you the papers or letters that contains the contract and his acknowledgment to the same, you think you can collect the money. It would be a great favor to me to get the money as I had to borrow the money to send to him, and am very poor, and am getting old and not able to work. I send you

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